INDIANA’S CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE

By Raina Regan:

If you’ve ever traveled the National Road from Greenfield to Indianapolis, perhaps you’ve noticed a sign or two making the community of “Philadelphia.” Drive 9 minutes east of Cumber-land or 6 minutes west of Greenfield and you’ll pass through Philadelphia. This small hamlet certainly owes its brief history to the development of the National Road, but owes its ultimate decline to the waning mill industry of Hancock county.

Sugar Creek Township was one of the first three townships established when Hancock County was organized in 1828. The National Road, which was surveyed across Hancock County in 1827, and opened in the north half of Sugar Creek Township in 1835, increased settlement and development in the areas surrounding the Road. The community of Philadelphia was laid out on April 11, 1838, no doubt in response to the National Road traffic, with inns and taverns as one of the early businesses of the community.

Today, not much remains of 19th century Philadelphia. If you hop off US 40 to the north or south, you’ll see a few architectural reminders of this National Road Community. A historic schoolhouse to the north. To the south, the recently National Register of Historic Places listed Rufus and Amanda Black House is an excellently preserved Italianate farmhouse. This is the first and only property in Philadelphia listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The full article is featured in our “Stories of the Road” blog, and will be posted May 1, 2015.

www.indiananationalroad.org/stories-of-the-road

SPECIAL DATES OF INTEREST:

Today: Renew your membership!
May: Historic Preservation Month
June: National Road Yard Sale

OWN A PIECE OF NATIONAL ROAD HISTORY

2 Washington Ct., Richmond, IN
Built: 1920
Bed: 3
Sq. Ft: 1,790
Style: Four Square
MLS#: 10024384
List Price: $59,000
Contact: BH & G Real Estate First Realty Group

Become a member or donate today!

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LINCOLN’S PASSING

By Joe Skvarenina:

On April 30 1865, the Lincoln Funeral Train entered Richmond Indiana at 3 A.M. and stopped to pick up Governor Oliver P. Morton and other state dignitaries. It was estimated that 12,000 to 15,000 people were at the Richmond station and church bells all over the city rang to pay homage to the deceased president. At 3:41 A.M. the train arrived in Centerville and went on to Germantown, Cambridge City and Knightstown. At 4:27 A.M., it arrived at Dublin were the entire community came out to show their respects. From there the train entered Hancock County journeyed to Charlottesville were many African American gathered at the tracks to grieve their slain leader.

The remains of President Lincoln passed through Cambridge City on April 30, 1865 at 5:55 A.M. on a dismal cold day. Many citizens from all parts of Hancock County were at the depot hoping to catch a glimpse of the coffin in which the martyred President lay. Prior to its arrival a young veteran had read Lincoln’s Second Inaugural address. But, the train didn’t stop so all people noticed was the railroad cars draped in black crepe looking very somber. People couldn’t see the casket because of the train’s small windows but it didn’t matter since everyone was weeping at this point.

IT’S NEVER TOO LATE TO JOIN!

Cambridge City—Are you a member of the Indiana National Road Association? Without our members our mission could not be accomplished. Members provide funds that translate into success. Have you joined or renewed your membership?

Simply print this newsletter, fill out and select level, and return to the address below, or visit our website! Benefits include this e-letter, invitations to our annual meeting, and discounted rates for our events and programs. Business members receive recognition on our website.

Join today and help Protect, Preserve, and Promote the Historic National Road.

The Indiana National Road Association is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and is an affiliate of Indiana Landmarks.